

## What should be People's Approach

People in nine states face fresh elections to Assemblies. What should be their approach to these elections? For two reasons the question assumes importance not only for the electorate of the nine states but for the people of the whole country. First, the elections have come in the trend of the country's present political development. Second, as is their game at every election, as it was at the last mid-term Lok Sabha poll, the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties of the country are preparing for a renewed bout of parliamentary mockfight to hoodwink the people and fulfil their own parliamentary ambitions. The crisis-ridden ruling bourgeoisie is using the elections today as a tactical manoeuvre to force the people to choose between its own class alternatives as a recipe for all that afflicts their life. The people's task is to see through this bourgeois game and rally behind their own alternative.

The first thing warranting attention in the present case is that elections were not due this year in any of these states. Elections have been necessitated in the wake of dismissal of the non-Congress (I) governments of these states and dissolution of their Assemblies by Indira Gandhi's government immediately after her return to power at the Centre. The ruling bourgeoisie has put Indira Gandhi back in power, mainly through an administrative rigging from its own class need in the face of its all-out crisis and Mrs. Gandhi took the measure to dismiss these governments for her operational convenience in the aggregate interest of the ruling capitalist class. The absence of a powerful united left and democratic movement in the country has only helped her in flouting the democratic norms, practices and rights (Contd. to page 2)

## An Appeal to the People of Assam

By declaring the entire Assam State, with the exception of North Cachar Hills district, as disturbed area and by promulgating an Essential Service Maintenance (Assam) 1980 Ordinance the Centre has taken recourse to the most ruthless arm of state power in the explosive situation in Assam. We strongly oppose these measures taken by the Central government. For these measures can never bring about a solution to the problem in Assam and will only aggravate and complicate the situation. Moreover on the plea of containing the agitation in Assam Mrs. Gandhi has assumed blanket power; she has taken a very dangerous move for concentrating more power in her hands. We cannot but note with deep concern the threat this spells for future working class movement. With this ordinance any industry (in Assam for the present) can be declared as essential service and hence democratic movement including strike in such an undertaking considered illegal and banned, in order to crush legitimate democratic movement, and to crush the growing resentment of the people against the grinding wheel of capitalist exploitation before it gets a chance from being channelised into such movements. We hope that all democratic minded people who feel a concern for developing democratic movement will raise their voice of protest against this dangerous move too.

The problem in Assam is a political question and cannot be resolved through repression, by treating it as a law and order question. Yet the Congress(I) at the Centre, after coming to power have not taken any concrete step or measure which can bring about a political solution or pave the way at least for such a solution. On the contrary, the same Congress (I) party which is overtly or covertly involved in the agitation in Assam has organised the economic blockade in West Bengal, inciting local sentiment and parochial frenzy in Assam. Playing on the feelings of both the Assamese and the Bengali people in the respective states solely to reap divi- (Contd. to page 4)

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## Central Committee's Statement on Assam

Calcutta, 5th April '80:

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, has in course of a statement said:

"It is a matter of grave concern for all democratic minded people of our country that the Indira Government at the Centre has, as yet, not taken any effective step towards a just and speedy solution to the problems in Assam. Instead, it is resorting to dilatory tactics to achieve petty party interest on the question of settlement of 'foreigners' issue. The Central Government, though not directly spelt out but wanted to sell the idea of taking 1967 as the 'Base Year' through the Governor of Assam in direct violation of the all-party decision in New Delhi, accepting 1971 to be so. We think that the move of altering the Base year through the Governor of Assam is nothing but unscrupulous and ill-motivated, as also devoid of minimum democratic norms and principles.

There is no denying the fact that the capitalist economy of India is facing newer crisis due to stoppage of supply of diesel and petrol for a long time. The threat to declare Assam as a disturbed area has been prompted not so much for solving the problem of Assam as to restore supply of oil to mitigate the crisis of economy.

In our view, this double-faced and utterly opportunist policy of the Indira Government, will only add strength to the separatist forces, strike a hard blow to the democratic movement and instead of solving the problem will only aggravate it further.

We, therefore, unequivocally condemn this politics of trickeries of the Indira Congress to achieve its narrow sectarian end which will only help prolong the internecine strifes between the different communities in Assam. We demand of the Central Government to stop immediately this dangerous political game and to take instead, effective steps on the lines suggested

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**24th APRIL**

**32nd ANNIVERSARY OF SUCI**



Main Speaker : **COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE**  
President : **COMRADE SHANKAR SINGH**

**SAHEED MINAR MAIDAN 5 P.M.**

# Unity for what—Petty parliamentary interest or democratic mass movement conducive to anti-capitalist socialist revolution?

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of the people and advancing the fascist design of the ruling bourgeoisie.

There had been similar commissions in the past, too. The Janata government had committed the same crime in 1977. The bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties support or oppose these undemocratic high-handed measures depending on whether the same suit their own petty parliamentary interest or not. Only our party has been consistently opposing these unprincipled, undemocratic measures from a principled stand and calling upon the people to resist unitedly these fascist moves of the ruling bourgeois parties.

Thus, Assembly elections in the nine states are being thrust upon the people as a bourgeois manoeuvre to stabilize its class rule throughout the country in the face of its all-out crisis and to satiate the power lust of the corrupt, unscrupulous and unprincipled bourgeois leaders. Should the people allow themselves to be victim of the bourgeois design? Or, should they not exert themselves to frustrate this evil design and uphold their own interest?

The task has to be decided in the background of the country's prevailing political situation. The danger of fascism looms large over the country as revealed, apart from the basic socio-political-economic structure of the country, in the spate of authoritarian measures resorted to by Indira Gandhi and her government. Problems are aggravating all around. The burden of capitalist economic crisis is crushing the people's life. A phenomenal price-rise and scarcity of essential commodities are adding to their distress beyond measure. Grim prospect confronts them not only

on the economic front, but on every other. Atrocities on the Harijans and other sections of the poor people are now part of daily life. Parochial forces are raising their head and Indira Gandhi's party, along with other bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties, are exploiting the situation to advance their petty parliamentary interest at the cost of the common people and the unity among the masses. They are all fostering communalism, castism, parochialism and other divisive tendencies among the people for their narrow ends. In her role as the faithful and trusted defender of capitalism amidst its all-out crisis, Indira Gandhi and her party appear as a fascist danger posing grave threat to the people and the democratic mass movement.

Undoubtedly, the people's main political task at this hour is to unite to fight this mortal danger of fascism. Only a united left and democratic mass struggle can defeat this fascist menace. The people's approach to the ensuing Assembly elections should be based on this political line.

As pointed out in our party's election manifesto on the recent mid-term Lok Sabha poll, two class angularities are at work in elections, too. The election battle is also a class battle. The object of the capitalist class is to try to sustain the crisis-ridden capitalism through the election, to stabilize its class rule. 'The object of the exploited proletariat, on the other hand, is to intensify rapidly the democratic mass movement paving the way for the overthrow of capitalism by defeating all the bourgeois designs and to use the election battle as well to that end. To achieve this object, it is the historical necessity at the present stage of democratic mass movement in our country to build up

united left and democratic front of all genuine left and democratic parties and forces. This front cannot be an alliance for electoral manoeuvre to serve petty parliamentary interest. It should be a genuine instrument of mass struggle and will participate in election battles as part and parcel of and incidental to the democratic mass movements. In short, the only object of participating in election battles from the people's angularity is to strengthen the democratic mass movement. Only that way can the people use and turn the elections imposed upon them by the bourgeoisie into a political battle to confront and frustrate the bourgeois move.

Clearly, the country's political situation today underscores not only the urgency of a genuine left and democratic unity but also the golden opportunity it provides. Because, the bourgeois parties are completely disarrayed today. This is the opportunity for the left and democratic parties and forces to cement their unity, strengthen their position and advance the people's cause taking advantage of the weakness of the bourgeois parties. But what are the approach and role, at this juncture, of parties like the CPI(M) and CPI who claim to be Marxists? The Central Committee of our party has been urging them all along to join forces to build up a genuine left and democratic front on the basis of a common minimum programme and code of conduct. An appeal was sent out before the last mid-term Lok Sabha poll, too. But on no occasion did these parties heed our call.

Leaders of these parties, however, talk, from time to time, of the urgent need to forge left and democratic unity. But what really has been their practice all along? To

build and develop a genuine left and democratic unity to advance the cause of the democratic mass movement, or, on the plea of that unity, to strike opportunistic electoral alliance with the reactionary bourgeois parties—even communal and parochial parties and forces—to secure their parliamentary career? What do their past and present corroborate? In the present case, too, on the eve of the Assembly elections in nine states, the CPI(M), CPI etc. are vociferous on the need to unite the anti-authoritarian, anti-Indira forces. The question is: unity for what? Unity for electoral wins to advance petty parliamentary interest through unprincipled, opportunist alliance on the plea of fighting authoritarianism? Or, unity to strengthen and intensify democratic mass movement conducive to the anti-capitalist socialist revolution which is the historically destined course to mitigate the basic problems in people's life? If the task is to wage a united struggle against authoritarianism or forces reflecting fascist trend how to wage that struggle? All who understand the real character of fascism also realize that it is not possible to fight fascism without fighting capitalism. So, a posture of struggle which cleverly bypasses the task of building democratic mass movement conducive to the anti-capitalist socialist revolution and makes use of the slogan to fight fascism as a trick to win elections aims clearly at hoodwinking the people and fulfilling petty parliamentary ambition.

Secondly, leaders of the CPI(M) and CPI are now busy in forging alliance with the bourgeois parties like the Congress (U), Lok Dal, etc. They had struck the same alliance at the last Lok Sabha poll, too. They are out to join hands with even the Janata, or its break-away groups. Their plea is to fight the authoritarian Indira Gandhi and her party. But the real character of the bourgeois

parties with whom they are joining hands on the plea of fighting authoritarianism has been amply exposed to the people by their policies and measures. The killing of hundreds of workers and peasants at Kanpur, Bailadilla, Panthnagar and elsewhere to suppress legitimate democratic mass movement, the retention of provision for PD Act or its actual reintroduction—measures which these parties had taken when they were in the government—do not these reveal the authoritarian traits in these parties? Everyone will agree that whoever goes to defend the crisis-ridden, moribund capitalism today is bound to acquire authoritarian tendency this way or that way. Is it really possible to fight authoritarianism by depending on these parties?

The authoritarian or fascist menace can actually be fought against by developing a left-democratic core to lead a broad based front including all parties and forces interested in fighting fascism. Are the CPI(M)-CPI leaders moving along this course? They argue that to contain Indira Gandhi anti-Indira votes must not be split, that they need more parliamentary strength to oppose her, and that alliance with the Congress (U), Lok Dal, etc. is a tactical manoeuvre to increase the left strength in the states where the left forces are weak. They are trying to make the people believe that they want to fight Indira Gandhi in this way. But the same question arises here: what should be the object of increasing the parliamentary strength? If the question has to be judged from the people's angularity then it must be admitted that increase in the parliamentary strength is conducive to the people's interest only if it conduces the growth and development of legitimate democratic mass movement. Divorced from the latter, the former has no relevance with the people's cause. All the anti-Indira, anti-authori-

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# BEHIND THE ATROCITIES ON HARIJANS

Almost every day the newspapers report about atrocities on the landless and poor peasants who because of their caste position in social hierarchy are called the 'Harijans'. The brutalities perpetrated on them—killings, arson, looting, indignities on women-folk, all remind one of primitive days. Yet, these are almost daily happenings in this 'biggest democracy'.

But what do they really connote? The bourgeois and petty-bourgeois politicians try to pass them for 'caste war'. Are they really so? Are they not 'class war' in their essence or content? Let us go deep into the causes.

In this third phase of intense general crisis of world capitalism Indian capitalism, being a part and parcel of the same, is suffering from ever deeper crisis. And with days passing crisis is becoming more and more intense. The ruling parties, be they the branded bourgeois parties or the parties claiming themselves to be left, have come to the rescue of the capitalist system and are passing the entire burden of the crisis on to the shoulder of the people. They are imposing back-breaking taxes whose entire burden has to be borne by the people, and every year they are imposing more and more taxes and inventing newer and newer ways of further taxing the toiling people so that they can offer the industrial as well as rural bourgeoisie more and more super profit in the name of subsidies, tax relief etc. etc.

For the toiling people they only offer suffering and starvation and if people being unable to stand hunger and poverty demand enhancement of wages, due share of crops the government at the instance of the rural vested class sets the administration and the police against the toiling people to crush their legitimate movements. Is that all? No. The jotedars, the

vested class themselves more frequently, with the help of police and the administration and their hired men resort to mass killings, arsons, loot etc. etc. Hundreds of such incidents are committed everyday and never during the thirty three years after independence, whoever was in power, people got respite from these atrocities excepting during the UF Government's rule in West Bengal in 1967 when the epoch making policy that "police must not interfere in legitimate democratic movements" enunciated by our beloved departed leader, teacher and guide and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was put to practice by Comrade Subodh Banerjee from his labour department. With the exception of that one instance be it the rule of Congress under Pandit Jawharlal Nehru or the rule of his daughter Indira Gandhi, her rule of emergency or the rule of Janata in the Centre as well as the states or the rule of CPI, CPI(M) in different states the picture remained the same, rather oppression and repression on the toiling people irrespective of caste, creed, religious faith are intensifying day by day.

But this is not all. So that toiling people cannot unite and offer a united resistance against exploitation and oppression the rulers always keep the people divided into caste, creed, religion, nationalities and sub-nationalities. The feudal rulers did it, the British colonial rulers did it, and today the bourgeois politicians are following the same practice. The toiling people of our country are divided into castes, creeds, religious communities, into nationalities and sub-nationalities. Taking advantage of this division amongst the toiling people and the absence of a powerful left movement, thanks to the opportunist parliamentary politics of the 'left' parties they are often set against one

another by the bourgeoisie and their political representatives as well as paid agents to divert their attention against the cause of their miseries. That is why so often caste frenzies, communal riots, fratricidal strifes between toiling people of different provinces break out shattering the unity of the toiling people and their united movement against the exploiters. And taking advantage of this disunity, the exploiters, the jotedars, the rural as well as urban vested class carry on their steam-roller of exploitation and oppression unhindered.

But the cruel joke of it is that these bourgeois and petty bourgeois politicians often express in public their so-called sympathy for one community or the other, for people of one caste or the other. Pulpit lectures are also never wanting where they are often found to shed tears even. But atrocities continue and are ever on the increase. Let us take the example of that section of the agricultural labourers and share-croppers belonging to so-called backward castes known as the Harijans. Some wrongly think that they are a distinct class, which they are actually not. Economically they belong to the oppressed class, the landless labourers, poor peasants or petty wage earners. But in social order, since they belong to the so-called lower castes, they are treated as untouchables, thanks to the unfulfilled tasks of the democratic revolution. They are doubly oppressed—economically as well as socially. And this social persecution adds insult to their injuries. No doubt this has to be remedied—otherwise democracy, democratisation of society become meaningless verbiages. But sympathies never wanting, so much tears shed for them during these thirty three years, have their lot been changed? Social persecution by the upper caste stopped? No. Has

any concrete step been taken to alleviate their miseries? No. Why then these mock sympathies? Quite clearly for parliamentary end—to get the Harijan votes with which they will go to governmental power. But after their purpose is served they leave them at the hands of the oppressors and the exploiters. Their miseries go on aggravating, atrocities on them continue unabated as before.

Even according to official figures, violent incidents affecting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes crossed the 10,000 mark, 10879 to be exact, in 1977-78. And needless to say that the official figures do not give the real picture for obvious reasons, and also there is the fact that many of the incidents are not even reported by the affected persons. But even if the official figure is accepted to be true—it speaks volumes about the enormity of the crime that is being perpetrated everyday against the toiling people of the whole country.

According to the report of the Commissioner of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes the number of cases or atrocities against Harijans that took place in 1977-78 alone was 4974 in Uttar Pradesh, 3366 in Madhya Pradesh, 681 in Bihar, 570 in Maharashtra, 331 in Gujrat, 261 in Rajasthan, 233 in Kerala and 102 in Andhra Pradesh. There was no improvement in '78-'79 or 79-80.

It is to be further noted that in the period between 1974 and 1976 when Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Emergency rule was in full swing, atrocities against the Harijans in the country as a whole showed an alarming increase of 41.9 percent.

Let us recall here just a few of the incidents to show the monstrosities and beastliness of the nature of crimes that beggar description.

On May 27th 1979 at Belchi in Bihar eight Harijans and three poor Sonars were shot by Kurmi landlords and thrown into

fire. Some of them were literally roasted alive. The victims included a 12 year old boy, who jumped out of the fire but was repeatedly pushed back into it.

In June 1977 at Pathadda in Bihar Harijans of the village who were agitating for better wages were answered with an armed assault on their hamlets. All the inmates including men, women and children were subjected to repeated beatings and then were locked up in a small room. They were not supplied with water even. The three leaders of the agitating Harijans were bound with ropes and paraded through the streets and left bleeding with wounds. The victims suffered for three days without any medical aid.

The Panthnagar massacres in Uttar Pradesh needs special mentioning. The farm labourers of the Panthnagar Agricultural University, staging a peaceful march for higher wages were fired upon at close range by the Provincial Armed Constabulary. This was followed by armed raids on the living quarters of the workers, many of whom were dragged out and shot dead. The University authorities did not conceal the fact that they acted on behalf of the vested class of the Terai region.

In Villapuram in Tamil Nadu in an armed assault 12 persons were killed and 63 Harijan houses were damaged. The whole assault affected 112 Harijan families according to the report of the Commissioner of Scheduled Caste and Tribes.

That the trend is still continuing, atrocities on the downtrodden by the vested class is going on unabated will be evident from the following two incidents.

In Parashbigha near Jehanabad, the first massacre of the year took place on the 6th February, in the dark hours of the night, when everybody was fast asleep, armed gangs surrounded the village, set fire to the huts, gunned

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tends in the most foul petty-party parliamentary politics, Congress (I) at the same time prepared the ground for getting people's sanction in usurping blanket power. No doubt, Mr. Jyoti Basu's repeated request to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to take firm action or stern measures in Assam and urging the other parties to rally behind her in that case have only emboldened Mrs. Gandhi in taking this step.

Chief Minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu also says that Assam problem is a political question and needs a political solution, but again and again has supported Indira Gandhi's stand in regard to Assam and has not been outspoken against this repressive measure. How can the two be reconciled? Who does not know that the Congress Government, both at the Centre and in Assam State in the 32 years of their rule far from trying to bring about a solution to the nationality problem have only aggravated the same; through the policies pursued by them they have aroused the misgivings and all-feelings of different communities against each other, created disharmony and disunity, and they are doing the same thing today. In this context to give support to Mrs. Gandhi instead of exposing her politics, the role of Congress and conducting a united movement of the people against this politics amounts in reality to go against a genuine solution to the problem in Assam. So, whatever be the strong verbal fight of the CPI(M), theirs is only a positional fight with Congress (I) in the field of pragmatic parliamentary politics. From their stands and moves it is clear that they treat the determination of the base, or cut-off year as the only political question, as if this were the main issue behind the problem in Assam. It is of course 'true, that our party, too, endorsed the consensus reached by all parties to fix the cut-off year at 1971 for determining the status of foreign-

## An Appeal to the People of Assam

ers, with the caution that particular attention must be paid to protect the interests of the minority communities without any discrimination and that the question should be dealt with flexibility and from an attitude of sympathy otherwise those who actually came and settled permanently in 1971 or even before but could not register their names either due to ignorance or defective government machinery will unjustly be declared as foreign nationals. We hope that this correctly reflects the sentiments of the democratic minded people of Assam.

But even with regard to fixing the cut-off year, a most dubious game is afoot, since the Governor of Assam, Mr. L. P. Singh in an offer of compromise has put forward the proposal of fixing 1967 as cut-off year. How could he make such a proposal if not authorised by the Centre to do so? Such an offer stands in complete violation of the agreement reached by all the parties and accepted by Mrs. Gandhi to fix 1971 as cut-off year, not to speak of the Centre's obligation to honour the international agreements in regard to confer citizenship rights to migrants from Bangladesh.

But even if an agreement should finally be reached and 1971 accepted as cut-off year, can this provide a full solution to the problem of Assam with the main issue being by-passed by these parties? Without removing the main cause of apprehension of the Assamese people, without allaying their genuine grievances and misgivings centring around the protection and scope for further development of their language, culture, education and distinct identity how can a solution be evolved to the problem in Assam? For, today it is precisely these genuine grievances and apprehension of the Assamese people that are being exploited by rabid parochial forces,

aided and abetted by the vested class and parties subservient to the ruling bourgeoisie, who are also spreading vile and baseless propaganda that Assam will be incorporated into 'Greater Bengal' or turned into a Muslim State.

It is a well known fact that Congress in their 32 years' rule in Assam very much neglected the problems of that State and did nothing to smooth out the ill feelings and mistrust between the different communities created by the British rulers through their policies of divide and rule; especially their mischievous language policies designed to create rift among the original inhabitants of Assam, the Assamese speaking people and the then new settlers, the Bengali speaking people. Rather, the Congress following in the footsteps of the British rulers, resorted to bureaucratic-military coercive methods and pursued policies designed to keep alive the ill feelings and the grievances of people of different communities; fostering the growth of parochialism and communalism the Congress rulers sowed dissension and disunity among the people in the interest of exploitative capitalist rule in order to divert the rising resentment of the people and their attention from the real cause of their sufferings and miseries. It is these factors, in particular the language policies implemented by the ruling Congress all these years, which kept alive the smouldering grievances and misgivings of the Assamese people, their apprehension about the status of Assamese language and free scope for further development of their language, culture and distinct identity apart from the unemployment problem that ultimately gave rise to the present situation. That is why in order to remove these apprehensions of the Assamese people, to allay their genuine grievances and misgivings as well as

to counter the vile and mischievous propaganda of rabid parochial divisive forces, our party, time and again, put forward a proposal to give constitutional recognition to Assamese as State language irrespective of percentage of population with the necessary constitutional amendments, and to guarantee the protection of Assamese culture while at the same time safeguarding the rights of the minority communities. This proposal of ours is not just a tactical move to meet the situation in Assam but is based on a scientific outlook and alone provides the basis for a scientific solution to the problem in Assam for this is the historical course for integration of different nationalities in a multi-lingual, multi-national state. Not by suppressing different nationalities, but by ensuring their fullest development and flourishing of language and culture does national integration take place. But with deep regret we have to state that neither the Centre nor the different parties, including the so-called Marxists accepted our proposal.

Some days ago in a Press Conference the Union Home Minister, is reported to have given an assurance to the Assamese people that the government would take necessary safeguards to see that Assamese culture and traditions were protected and promoted. What more than loose propaganda does this assurance signify? If the Centre was serious about it they would have accepted our proposal to give constitutional recognition to Assamese language and guarantee for safeguarding their culture, but that they refused. Whatever the Centre may say, they do not mean it, they are not interested in a true solution to the problem of Assam, they are not concerned in safeguarding the interest of the people. All they are interested in is to safe-

guard the interest and the right to exploitation of the ruling bourgeoisie and to fish in troubled water for their own pragmatic sectarian parliamentary interests, to the detriment of the cause of the people, at the cost of their suffering. Mr. Jyoti Basu stated recently that there should be no difference or opposition on the Assam issue with Mrs. Gandhi since it involves the question of national integration. May we ask the CPI(M) leader whether national integration is a supra class concept? Claiming themselves to be Marxists are they ignorant even of the basic teachings of Marxism that in a class divided society the approach to every problem, every concept has a definite class basis and between the concept of national integration of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat there is a world of difference. For a Marxist approaches the question of national integration basically from the standpoint of uniting the entire working class and toiling people of all nationalities in legitimate democratic movement and in the struggle for ultimate emancipation from capitalist exploitation whereas the bourgeoisie approaches it basically from the point of view of keeping the capitalist system running while creating dissension and disunity among the working class to perpetuate capitalist exploitative rule. Have the two anything in common? We would urge the CPI(M) rank and file to ponder over this question.

Along with this cultural exploitation, economic exploitation of the people in the moribund capitalist system, beset by ever deepening all-out crisis, has long surpassed all bearable limits. No doubt, the Centre's neglect in economic development of Assam State during the 32 years of Congress rule and the failure of the Centre to discharge their proper responsibility towards the refugees in Assam have added further to the

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## PRICE RISE—ITS REAL CAUSES

There is no denying the fact that the prices of daily necessities of life are ever on the increase but the soaring prices of essential commodities that have marked a steep rise throughout the country in recent past knew no bounds. To quote a leading daily, 'there has been no respite to the consumer from the perennial increases in the prices of commodities, particularly essential goods, with the rate of inflation running currently at about 23% in a year (wholesale price) (Statesman, 22.2.80). When the miseries of the people are real and so very pinching it is hardly necessary to take help of the statistics to show its extent. Still then, we are just quoting a few relevant figures, of course from the government source to show what even they speak of. The official statistics released (Feb. 21, 1980) by the Economic Advisers to the Ministry of Finance, depict 'The All India official wholesale price index for "all Commodities" (base 1970-71=100) stood at 226.7 (provisional) during the week ending Feb. 9, '80 against 225.2 (provisional) for the preceding date. At this level, the index was higher by 0.7% & 22.9% respectively when compared with the previous week and last year. So, in a single year between June '79 and June '80 wholesale price index registered a rise of 22.9%. Needless to say that the common people are not concerned with the rise in wholesale index as what they face in daily life is retail price, the increase of which is much more. As against this, let us look at the rise in prices of some individual item of daily necessities:

'Food articles rose by 4.9%, non-food articles by 7.3%... The sub-group sugar, khandasari & gur went up by 30.2%... Higher prices of sugar in open markets had their impact on prices of gur which shot up by 45.7% in 78-79. The rise in prices of paper & paper products (7.4%)... was the result of continued inadequate domestic supplies... [The Report on Currency, Vol. 1, Economic Review for 1978-79 made by the RBI] It is to be noted that the above report covers the period 1978-79 compared to which the prices of the individual items referred to above had undergone further steep rise. Consequent upon the rise of prices of daily necessities, the toiling people of our country have been subjected to acute hardship. It is no doubt a fact that miseries of the masses of the people are an inevitable outcome of the exploitative capitalist system obtaining in our country. But even under imperialist-capitalist countries some palliative measures can be adopted which to some extent, can alleviate the sufferings of the people. But to our great misfortune, the

economic measures adopted by the rulers that be of our country, is not directed to that end; rather it is more directed to help the Indian capitalist class in every possible ways, with utter disregard for the well-being of the working people. An examination of the factors that are responsible for this alarming phenomenon of ever rising prices of essential commodities in our country will establish it.

A pertinent question that agitates the mind of a common man: what has then caused current abnormal price increase? The CPI(M) led 'Left Front' Government in West Bengal has blamed the Centre, especially its Finance Minister contended in the current budget session that prices of commodities have gone up because of imposition of taxes on essential articles of consumption as well as enhancing of prices of coal, diesel, kerosene and petroleum products by the Central Government, which no doubt contributes to price rise. As against this, the Central Government led by Sm. Gandhi in her turn is in accusing spree day in and day out for all these evils against

the erstwhile Janata Government for mismanagement in economic sphere resulting in chaos and all that. The real cause behind this economic malaise lies in the capitalist economic system as such, which is governed by the capitalist law of extracting maximum profit. In the present third phase of intense general crisis of world capitalist market, stagflation has become a common phenomenon of capitalist world, especially in the underdeveloped bourgeois countries. The main feature of stagflation is stagnation in economy despite adoption of inflationary measures through public spending programme. It is more so in the period of third phase of intense crisis of world capitalist system when not only in advanced capitalist countries but also in the relatively backward capitalist countries like India owing to unbelievably low purchasing capacity of the overwhelming majority of the people, such is the usual feature in economy. And this is bound to happen so long the capitalist system remains. As a result, a stage is therefore set when capital becomes idle and bureaucratic. Since the motive force of production in capitalism is to anyhow earn maximum profit, in this situation the capitalists, in order to keep up their profit, produce less but add high margin of profit to make up for the decrease in quantity which, in turn, leads to higher prices. As a natural consequence, the tendency towards speculative profit is being more and more pronounced. Consequently, hoarding, blackmarketing, speculative price manipulation and the like are contributing more to this unusual price spurt of essential commodities. It is, therefore, quite clear that two phenomena—one is emanating from the law of very capitalist mode of production and the other

## Police oppression on struggling peasants in Andhra Pradesh

Vizianagaram,  
12th March '80:

The Andhra Pradesh Police in collusion with the Revenue Department of the state has let loose a reign of terror on the struggling poor landless and Adivasi peasants of Gajapatinagaram Taluka in Andhra Pradesh. Police have also arrested Comrade Adhiphaka Mutyalu, President of the Gajapatinagaram Taluka Unit of All India Kisan-O-Khet Majdoor Federation. He, along with several others, were remanded to police custody since the 9th March last.

In this connection it may be mentioned that the Gajapatinagaram Taluka

unit of AIKKMF have long been fighting against atrocities on the poor Harijan and Adivasi peasants of that area since 1976. They have been also conducting movement for higher wages to the agricultural labourers and for homesteads for homeless peasants. To suppress this movement police and government administration have framed up several cases, both criminal and civil, against the organisers of the movement.

The Vizianagaram District Committee of the AIKKMF has adopted a programme to launch civil disobedience movement and has appealed to all other trade unions of the town to stand in support of their just struggle.

is the direct consequence of acute crisis of present day capitalist system—are the real culprit behind the unbearable situation in our day to day life.

The crisis has reached such a pass that the entire fiscal policy of the government is geared to provide artificial market for the capitalist class as also to protect the maximum profit for them. So, while any government within the system of capitalist state structure cannot stop price rise owing to the first factor mentioned above which arises from the very law of capitalist production, it can certainly do a lot of things to protect the interest of the common people against the speculative price manipulation of the capitalists. Can the responsibility of any civilised government be shirked off on any plea, this way or that way? Then what does stand in the way of discharging their basic duty and obligation to provide people with uninterrupted supply of essential commodities at a fair price and guaranteed quality? Who does not know that in the face of such abnormal price rise, people are left completely at the mercy

of hoarders, black marketers and profiteers? It is only our party, SUCI, which has pointed out time and again that some relief certainly can be given to the people even within the present capitalist economic set-up by introducing all-out state trading including both wholesale and retail not only in foodgrains but in a range of essential articles of consumption as well. Our party is consistently demanding a total ban on private trading in foodgrains and other daily necessities of common people.

There is no other solution; if past experience be any guide, anything short of all-out state trading will be ineffective. With the government taking to wholesale trading in foodgrain, the wholesale traders turned overnight retail traders. This our party had warned all through.

In West Bengal, the CPI(M) led 'Left Front' government also because of its pro-monopoly, pro-jotedar policy of appeasement, has taken more of the measures to resist price rise by way of keeping the hoarder and dishonest traders 'under control'. It is shirking its responsibility and is just pointing

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tarian fiery slogans, in that event, reduce to mock heroics—a shrewd parliamentary manoeuvre which the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties resort to in order to slur each other before the public and reap parliamentary dividends. Such opposition to Indira Gandhi is only parliamentary opposition, it is not the basic class opposition to Indira Gandhi, the trusted defender of the ruling capitalist class.

Secondly, the left forces can grow only through development of democratic mass movement. Can they grow out of an electoral alliance which bypasses mass movements and aims at sharing parliamentary dividends? Is not the plea of the CPI(M)-CPI leaders against the historic truth of emergence of the left forces?

Because they are treading such course from petty parliamentary interest, these pseudo-left parties are shuttling to and fro trailing one or another of the bourgeois parties or combinations on this or that plea. Once the CPI(M) supported the Janata as defender of democracy, then withdrew support branding that party as communal and extended support to the leader of the defectors, Charan Singh, and his party the Lok Dal, simultaneously supported by Indira Gandhi herself, calling it anti-communal, anti-authoritarian and the CPI(M) is now trying to ally with the Janata again, or its breakaway groups.

But with all such serpentine moves, are the CPI(M)-CPI leaders really serious about fighting Indira Gandhi? Are not they helping Indira Gandhi actually with their politics? In the past, she had run a minority government with support from these parties. Leaving aside the fact of their overt or covert support to Indira Gandhi throughout the entire period of 1969-75, who does not know that their stand on the Central Janata Government's crisis in July last had objectively helped Indira Gandhi's return to power?

## TO FIGHT FASCIST DANGER RALLY ROUND SUCI

Their history of hobnobbing with Indira Gandhi simultaneously with their anti-Indira posture has been known to the people. Even now leaders of the CPI(M) are reported to be conducting secret dialogues with her, even as they are crying for anti-Indira unity for the coming assembly elections. They are maintaining a secret link with her as also making it all the more easier for her by allying with the discredited bourgeois parties to strengthen her position. Not only that. By refusing the concrete task of the hour—forging the left democratic unity which alone can fight the fascist menace posed by Indira Gandhi and her party—the CPI(M)-CPI leadership is objectively strengthening her hands.

Actually, these pseudo-left parties are vying today with the known bourgeois parties to secure a foothold in the bourgeois scheme of the two party parliamentary system. They are helping the bourgeois design in all means. This politics of theirs gets exposed further when one takes note of how they are trying to prove their mettle before the ruling bourgeoisie. How they are ruthlessly suppressing legitimate democratic mass movements in the states where they are in governmental power. How the CPI(M) led 'Left Front' government in West Bengal mounted a savage attack on the peaceful mass violators of law led by our party, the SUCI, on the 15th June last in Calcutta. How Jyoti Basu, too, like Indira Gandhi, considers law and order in the interest of the ruling bourgeoisie his major preoccupation. How his government, too, is increasing the police budget every year to strengthen this coercive arm of the capitalist state, while education and social welfare schemes languish for lack of adequate funds.

To conceal the real character of their politics,

the leadership of the CPI(M) and CPI pose, among other things the question of strength in a way as though there is no question of principle associated with it, as though the question of principle is alien to people's interest.

This politics of exigency of the sham Marxists has yielded such a confusion and frustration among many intellectuals and members of the public that they belittle the effort of the genuine revolutionary party to build mass movement on the basis of a revolutionary principle as 'purist'. But the same people are pained at the immoral, unprincipled and unscrupulous conduct of the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties and leaders, and they lament: 'Nothing can cure this land.' Nothing has been more ruinous for the people's cause than this depraving effect of the unprincipled, rank opportunist political conduct of the pseudo-Marxists.

These parties have now reached such an end pursuing their politics that they consider none untouchable other than the genuine revolutionary party. This is because it is essential for them to strike alliance with one or other of the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties as does suit their parliamentary exigency in a given circumstance. But the genuine revolutionary party conducts the election battle, too, with the definite object of advancing the democratic and revolutionary struggle. These pseudo-Marxists do not hesitate even to join hands, openly or clandestinely, with the same bourgeois party whom they call the main enemy at a given situation. The history of the world is replete with instances of such conduct of the social democrats. This explains why the CPI(M) no longer considers it impossible to unite with the CPI, whom it has dubbed as its hated enemy

all these years. And why both the CPI(M) and CPI see little difficulty in joining hands with either the Congress (I), or the Janata, or some other bourgeois party. There is no room for principle in their world of politics. So, they must call that party 'sectarian', or 'disruptive' which fights on the basis of a definite revolutionary principle. This is the only weapon in the hands of the pseudo-revolutionaries to fight the revolutionary.

Judging in this light, one has little difficulty in realizing why parties like the CPI(M) refuse to join hands with the SUCI under any circumstance today. Warning about it Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our beloved leader, teacher and guide, had pointed long back that in politics there were, apparently, many forces raising different slogans and flying different banners. But, in reality, there were only two camps—one was of the forces of revolution striving for a fundamental change of this exploitative social system, the other was the forces of counter-revolution of different shades of bourgeois and petty bourgeois politics engaged in the task of perpetuating this order.

Until and unless the people realize this truth, they will flock again and again around these parties, and again and again their hopes and aspirations will be dashed, their burning problems unsolved, uncared for, unmitigated. Frustration and degeneration will descend in their life and it will be the forces of reaction to gain strength out of it. This is where the politics of the CPI(M) and CPI have been pushing the people all along.

In the prevailing gloom of the country's political situation there is however one bright spot. There is a growing and intense urge among the people to know, study and accept the great

revolutionary teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. More and more people are rallying round the SUCI, the party he reared up. For, more and more people are realizing that the correct approach to solve the basic problems in their life lies in developing and strengthening the line of mass struggle, not in mere change of government through elections. And it is the SUCI which alone is upholding today the banner of mass struggle. All others known as left have abandoned the course of mass movement. Only the SUCI is engaged in building the people's alternative political power by organizing and developing democratic mass movements on the edifice of higher proletarian culture and ethics to lead the people's struggle for emancipation to its logical culmination. So, it is the historic task of the people throughout the country to strengthen the SUCI.

People in the nine states where assembly elections will be held should approach the elections from this standpoint. They should keep in mind that administrative rigging has become the usual feature of the bourgeois election system in our country today. Only a powerful and united democratic mass movement throughout the country can prevent the bourgeoisie from manipulating the election results through administrative rigging. That is the only course, the only remedy.

It should also be realized that so long the phase of democratic mass movement continues, these movements will have to be strengthened through the process of integrating the struggle inside the legislature with the struggle outside. Therefore, only those representatives should be elected who will reflect the voice of mass movement inside the legislature and help develop mighty extra-parliamentary movements by exposing the anti-people design of the bourgeois and the pseudo-left parties both within and outside the legislature. The SUCI calls upon the people to realize their task and be equal to it.



## The toiling people must build up their unity against exploitation and oppression

(Contd. from page 3) those who tried to escape and threw them in the fire thus killing 12 poor landless agricultural labourers, including seven women and two children.

On the moonlit night of 26th February, this year, when people were fast asleep, a gang of about fifty jotedars and their hired men, armed with lethal weapons, surrounded Pipra village, a hamlet of about 27 set fire to the huts by throwing kerosene-soaked fire balls, fired those who tried to escape and threw them in the flames. In this operation which lasted for about five hours fourteen persons died.

According to the Scheduled Cast and Scheduled Tribes Commissioner's report the poor Harijans become victims of the wrath of the well-to-do landlords and rich farmers on account of the agrarian issues and denial of payment of wages at the prescribed rates. A recent Home Ministry study also admitted that land disputes, bonded labour and indebtedness were always the major causes of such attacks.

In most of the states land reforms has only remained on papers. Even where lands were distributed to the landless—those had been grabbed back by the rich peasants. In Khanjhwala, near Delhi, the kulaks undertook an open campaign for taking back land given away to the Harijans. In Uttar Pradesh alone, about one lakh acres of land are estimated to have been stolen back from the Harijans during 1977-78.

Village Kannadia of Ratlam district of MP turned into a scene of massacre when the poor Harijans 'dared' to plough their own lands. Instances of destruction of poor Harijans' crops by setting cattle on fields in accompaniment of band music are many.

And how can all these crimes be perpetrated if

the state and local administration and the police were not in collusion with the vested interest? In fact, there is such a chain operating everywhere throughout the country. The Narainpur incident, about which we wrote in an article in one of our previous issues, in which police personnels personally conducted the massacre had only followed a long tradition.

Is that all? No. Even leaders of political parties are involved in these incidents. At Rupaspur in Purnea district in the Sixties, in an atrocity some Adivasi share croppers were burnt alive by the landlords and the main accused in the case included no less a person than the president of the Pradesh Congress and the Speaker of the State Assembly. Similarly in the Belchi incident, one of the main accused, was elected to the Bihar Assembly after the carnage and was granted an anticipatory bail by the High Court.

We have also to keep in mind that not only the Bhoomihars or the upper-caste jotedars commit atrocities against the Harijans, but the so-called backward caste Jotedars resort to killings and burning of life and dwellings of landless labourers or poor peasants belonging to the same caste for their only 'crime' (!) of demanding living wages or possession of government vested lands allotted to them. The Belchi incident of 1977 which was dismissed by the then Home minister Mr. Charan Singh as a clash between two criminal gangs, obviously to shield the real culprits, was actually an incident of arson and assault on the Harijans by the jotedars. Mahabir Mahato was a Kurmi jotedar and when the landless labourers working on his field demanded better wages their huts were burnt and eleven of them lost their lives. In Pipra massacre, the crimi-

nals were rich Kurmies and in Pipra too the atrocity had been committed by the Kurmi rich peasants against the landless Harijars. What is painful here is that raising the bogey of caste, the jotedars and the vested interest have even been able to draw the support of the toiling people of upper caste in their acts of atrocities they are committing on oppressed people of other castes. They are shielding the class content of the conflict by painting these struggles as so-called caste war. But the incidents we have cited above and many we have not show unmistakably that what is going on throughout the country is a class war and not a caste war. Of course, even if those were merely manifestations of caste frenzies, they would have been equally condemnable. But the fact remains that these are class battles and not caste war although the rural vested interest are giving caste colouring to those to confuse the toiling people. And in this class battles, despite their mock sympathies the Janata, Lokdal and their factions, Congress and its factions and all the parties who claim themselves lefts have sided with the vested class. And so long class differences exist in our society, so long society remains divided into classes—the owners, the rich, the oppressors on the one hand and the have-nots, the oppressed on the other—the class conflict will continue.

Only the anti-capitalist socialist revolution will ensure a permanent solution to all these problems, these social maladies, the miseries of the toiling people.

But that does not mean recurrence of such brutalities cannot be resisted at all. They can be resisted as has been time and again pointed out by our beloved leader, teacher and guide and an outstanding Marxist

## Saheed-E-Azam Day Observed

**Ghaziabad, 24th March '80:** Under the auspices of the Democratic Youth Organisation, Ghaziabad Town Committee, Shaheed-E-Azam Day was observed in Ghaziabad in a befitting manner. In this connection a well attended meeting was held in Dr. Ambedkar Public School, Shibani Pura, Ghaziabad on the 23rd March. Comrade Monmohan was present in this meeting as the Main Speaker. Comrade Monmohan, while paying homage to the great memory of Shaheed-E-

Azam Bhagat Sing, said, observance of Martyr's Day should not be taken in a ritualistic manner because, by that way we will undermine the revolutionary significance of laying of lives by the martyrs for the society. He reminded, the dream and aspirations of the martyrs for a society free from poverty, exploitation and oppression still remain unfulfilled. Rather, these problems—destitution, poverty, exploitation, acute unemployment, cultural and

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thinker of this era Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, if a mighty united movement of all the oppressed people, irrespective of caste, creed and religious faith, be developed against the oppressor class. The oppressed people will have to understand that in their life and death struggle against the oppressors they have but one name—they are the oppressed, the have-nots. Their caste, creed and religious faith should not stand in the way of their unity as a class and their united resistance against the oppressor capitalist class. They must build up their unity against oppression and exploitation just as the oppressors have built up a unity of their own in their hunt for more profit. And only when such a united movement on the edifice of higher proletarian culture is built up, its impact will also restrain the administration and the police from taking side with the oppressors. But despite our repeated appeals to the CPI, CPI(M) to build up a unity of the genuine left and democratic forces through democratic mass movements they have not responded to our calls. But can they deny the fact that it is only the democratic mass movement that alone can unite the oppressed people of all castes, creeds, religious faiths and communities on a class basis against the

capitalist class? Is it not a fact that this alone can free the toiling people from the tentacles of parochial forces and trends of thoughts? And indeed, this alone can sweep clean the small barriers and divisions between the toiling millions. Whoever is interested to unite the working people on class basis cannot ignore this truth.

In such a situation, when all others have now taken the side of the oppressors, the vested class, in detriment to the interest of the oppressed—the oppressed people must come forward, in bold defence of their cause and strengthen SUCI, the only genuine working class party of our country, their own party, and strengthen the movement that have been launched by our party throughout the length and breadth of our country. Only by strengthening the movement, the movement, precursor to the anti-capitalist socialist revolution that the recurrence of all these atrocities of the vested class can be resisted. And only through the successful culmination of the anti-capitalist socialist revolution under the leadership of a genuine working class party, and in this instance, our party SUCI, the age-old social maladies like caste and class oppression can be completely eliminated from the society.

## SOARING PRICES

(Contd. from Page 5) to the centre. The necessity of taking some measures on a national plane is admitted; but does that mean that the State has no responsibilities in this regard? Rather, it is a fact, it is in their power to take some measures which can bring some relief to the people. Instead of doing this, they are also virtually relying on the good sense of the hoarders and black marketeers as well as the capitalists like their counterpart at the Centre.

Not only that; they are moving in the very reverse direction. Instead of procuring any food-grains for distribution through fair price shops, they have left the toiling people at the mercy of the hoarders, profiteers and black marketeers, jotedars etc. by abolishing government levy on production. What prevented the West Bengal Government, despite possession in its armoury of Essential Commodities Act, Hoarding Control Order, and the different sections of Price and Stock Declaration Order, from strongly applying these measures against the hoarders and dishonest traders?

So, it is obvious to the toiling people that not only the branded bourgeois parties but even the so-called 'Marxist' parties are in reality aiding the speculators, blackmarketees, price manipulators and the death merchants to fleece the people. The alternative left to the people therefore to defend their interest is to build up their own movement on the demands of all-out state trading of foodgrains and other essential commodities, with a well-knit distributive system spreading over the country. Our party is consistently demanding of the governments both at the Centre and in the states to introduce all-out state trading of essential commodities ensuring their regular supply at fair price standard quality to the people

through an efficient distribution system. In tune with this urge and aspiration of the toiling millions the Central Committee of our party has given a call for and actually initiated democratic mass struggles in different states on legitimate demands of the toiling people including that of curbing spiralling prices of daily necessities of life and its solution on the lines mentioned beforehand. When none of the left and democratic parties

## Central Committee's Statement

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to it by our party for a just and rational solution to the problems in Assam.

We call upon, at the same time, all the left and democratic parties and forces to come forward, in order to build up a mighty left and democratic movement all over the country so that oppressed peoples' genuine grievances can get a healthy course, the separatist forces and fissiparous tendencies are denied a foothold and the conspiracy of the crisis-ridden bourgeoisie to divide the unity of the working people is also frustrated.

## Appeal to the People of Assam

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unbearable load of hardships generated by the present capitalist system for the people in Assam.

In view of economic backwardness of Assam and the pressing unemployment problem our party demanded of the Centre that a 'package programme' for speedy economic development and the opening of new avenues for employment should be taken up immediately to provide some relief for the people of Assam. But even if these demands are met by the Centre, so long the exploitative capitalist system exists, their main hardships remain unresolved, the root cause of all the people's ever growing miseries remains. Such being the reality, by increasing their majority over the minority communities can the genuine grievances and burning problems in the life of the Assamese people be solved? We appeal to the Assamese people to carefully consider these points and to come forward unitedly to put pressure on the

came out despite our repeated call for developing mass struggles to bring pressure to bear upon the governments to make them abandon their anti-people policies our party carrying the banner of struggle and revolution has taken the initiative single handedly to organise mass movements throughout the country. Our party is telling the people, therefore, to realise that the only ray of hope lies before them is to develop democratic mass struggles to fulfil these modest demands. No other alternative is left open before them.

government through legitimate democratic movement so that it accepts the proposal of our party to give constitutional recognition and safeguard to their language and culture with simultaneous safeguard for protection to the rights of the minority communities and to implement package programme for speedy economic development.

It is our firm conviction that the only way out from such a suffocating situation lies in developing legitimate democratic movement of the people of Assam based on higher culture and ethics on the common burning problems in their life. This will help creating a sense of goodwill, amity and fraternity among the people of different communities and firmly cement their unity.

We appeal to the people of Assam to see through the deep deception of these bourgeois parties branded or otherwise and to come forward to exchange ideas and views, to intermingle

## West Bengal State Committee on Islampur Massacre

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI, has issued the following statement on burning of nine villages by the police in Islampur subdivision, West Dinajpur District, West Bengal:

"What happened on 7th of April, in the broad daylight in Phulbari and other eight villages of Islampur subdivision was beyond anybody's imagination before it actually happened. A big contingent of armed police under the leadership of district high police officials came in police jeeps and set fire on nine villages, reducing the huts and other properties of the villagers to ashes. This was a calculated act of vengeance on the villagers rendering about three to four thousands families homeless and pauper.

"The cause of police vengeance is said to be an incident which occurred in Phulbari village the previous night when the O.C. of local police station came with three or four police personnels on the ostensible plea of preventing dacoity in the village, the information about which, they claimed they had received earlier but in fact were themselves engaged in looting property of a villager. The villagers resisted this conspiracy and as a result two policemen were killed. This incident was followed by savageries by police forces which are unthinkable in a civilised society. This also gave the taste of law and order the people are enjoying actually.

"The statement of the Chief Minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu is a sad commentary on their democratic norm and conduct. It was

and to build up their unity against the main enemy and source of their sufferings and hardship—the exploitative capitalist rule—by developing legitimate democratic movement as a first step in the struggle for complete emancipation.

nothing but a shrewd attempt to defend unprecedented police barbarities in the state by sidetracking the issue to a theory of 'grave provocation' caused by the 'killing of two policemen'. Does he mean to say that the police who were accused of committing dacoities in the village had the right to give their own judgment and resort to this ghastly act of reprisal on villagers? This is surely unacceptable on any standard of civilised code.

"We demand immediate non-official enquiry into the whole range of incidents by the representatives of all political parties in the Assembly, deterrent punishment including dismissal from services to the guilty police officers and other personnels, full compensation including construction of houses and adequate monetary help for the recovery of losses to some extent of the villagers, as also change in police code to stop the possibility of such occurrence in future. We call upon the democratic minded people of the state to come in support of these genuine demands."

## Saheed-E-Azam Day

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moral degradation—are all ever on the increase in the exploitative capitalist society of ours. So, students and youths of the country in particular and all sections of the toiling masses in general must realise the need of the hour and come forward to fulfil the unaccomplished tasks of the martyrs through anti-capitalist socialist revolution in our soil. This is the only way to pay honour to the memory of the martyrs. This is the lesson of the great leader of the proletariat. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the most worthy successor of the martyrs of the country of all ages. Comrade Amrit Lal Chakraborty also spoke. Comrade Madan Pal Sharma presided over the meeting.

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